

WHAT CONSTITUTES TRUE SUCCESS.

[Read at California State Conference.]

To constitute, means to establish. This would be the most comprehensive rendering of the question, What establishes true success?

To establish true success, several things are necessary. I will present a few things that according to the Scriptures are essential to true success.

1. A strict observance of the whole law of God. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point he is guilty of all." James 2: 10.

How can true success attend our way, with such condemnation resting upon us, guilty of breaking the whole law of God? All through the Scriptures we are earnestly and repeatedly warned to observe, keep and do all the commandments of God, and the promise is that great prosperity and true success will attend our way.

David's charge to Solomon. The Lord promised to establish Solomon's kingdom forever, if he be constant to do his commandments. "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and a willing mind, for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the thoughts, if thou seek him he will be found of thee." I Chron. 28: 7-9.

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God." II John 9. If God be not with us all our efforts to please him will be fruitless. How can we establish true success without the help of God?

Joshua, the son of Nun, was full of the spirit of wisdom, and was very successful in leading the Israelites over Jordan and into the promised land, and dividing the land for an inheritance to the Israelites, and his success was due to his strict observance of the word of the Lord. The Lord spake unto Joshua saying, "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein, for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Josh. 1: 8. "If a man love me, he will keep my words, and my father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." John 14: 23.

Jesus has promised to manifest himself to all that keep his words; if we abide in him, and he in us, whatever we ask will be granted, with Jesus living in us, and working through us, our labors, thus wrought, will produce true success. The testimony of Jesus to the churches of Asia:

The church of Philadelphia was very

successful in her Christian work, and Jesus ascribed her success to a strict adherence or fidelity to his commandments. "For thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied me. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I will also keep thee from the hour of temptation." Rev. 3: 8-10.

2. Consistency is essential to true success. True success in the service of the Lord is established by living a consistent Christian life. Some one has said "Consistency, thou art a jewel." Oh how very often our actions betray our profession, and how often stumbling blocks are thrown in the paths of others, by our being inconsistent.

Jesus taught the people by precept and example, and the true success that attended his labors was partly due to his consistent life. The life that he lived was strictly accordant with his teachings, and with his profession. What a beautiful concord or union between his precept and example.

Our actions should corroborate with our profession. "He that saith he abideth in him, ought himself also to walk, even as he walked." John 2: 6. In order to walk as Jesus walked, we must take up and put on the complete or whole armour of God, as described by Paul, in Eph. 6. The Christian armour is a defensive covering, against the enemies of our souls, and having put every piece on, we are enabled to establish true success, "and withstand in the evil day. Brethren, let our lives be consistent with our profession. Oh how it hurts our feelings when we hear of some one being accused of not living up to what they profess. I believe that this one thing has done more to injure the cause of Christ, and to turn people against the Christian religion, than any other thing in the world. If the fruits of the Spirit were displayed more, the mouths of the gain sayers would be closed and they would be made to acknowledge that of a truth, there is a reality in the Christian religion. The life of Daniel, the greatly beloved of God was perfect, his enemies sought to find fault in him, but they failed in their efforts. His life was in harmony with his maker, his life was altogether consistent with his profession; he pleased God, and the Lord made his enemies to be at peace with him, and consequently he establishes true success.

3. Consecration is essential to the establishing of true success.

To consecrate is to dedicate to sacred uses. If we are soldiers of the cross, and lifting high his royal banner, our lives must be dedicated to his service, whatever our association in life may be, all

our spare time should be devoted to God. We should strive to let the words of our mouth, and the meditations of our heart, be acceptable in the sight of God. No man can be successful in serving two masters. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matt. 6: 24. We cannot establish true success in the service of God except we render a whole hearted and a true hearted service to him.

"They that are in the flesh cannot please God." Rom. 8: 8. "For they that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh." Rom. 8: 5.

It is spiritual devotedness that accomplishes true success. Men may achieve a considerable amount of success without it. They may attain to places of honor and power, but the highest type of greatness and true success is achieved by spiritual supremacy of character. Herein lies the secret of true success in accomplishing God's purpose in the world. A lack of this essential quality, means a complete failure to establish true success.

Consecrate me now to thy service Lord,
By the power of love divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in thine.

A CRITICISM.

Who that is unacquainted with our views concerning the "Lord's Supper" could get any idea of them from the comments under that head in the Brethren Quarterly? It would be impossible for them to do it. Whatever the views of the commentators may be, the comments plainly teach the popular idea that the "communion" is the Lord's Supper. Now I do not believe in being fanatical on the subject of "Our Distinctive Doctrines," by trying to make something out of nothing, or by basing a doctrinal teaching on a poor foundation; but such teachings have their place in the work of salvation. And where such an opportunity existed, for giving the true teachings on the Lord's Supper, and setting forth the distinction between it and the communion, as in Mark 14: 12-26, I am surprised that our commentators should let it slip. When the question of publishing our own literature was being agitated, one of the chief arguments was, that in it we could set forth our faith and practice, and when the work was begun I believe the general understanding was that it should do so, but it failed in the lesson for April 28. Will not our commentators tell us why?

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A MINISTER whose call begins feeble, and stays feeble, probably never had a call.—Rev. Dr. Burton.